



## BY THE KING.

*A Proclamation inhibiting the Assembly of any Divines, or others, by colour of a pretended Ordinance of the Lords and Commons of the Twelfth of June last past, or any Proceedings thereupon.*



H E R E A S there hath been this long time a desperate and seditious design amongst divers factious Persons, to alter the whole Frame, Constitution, and Government of this Church, so long and so happily established within this Kingdom, in pursuance whereof they have discountenanced, and in a manner suppressed the Book of Common-Prayer, called by Law, driven away, imprisoned, or removed very many Learned, Orthodox, and Godly Divines and Ministers from their Cures, for discharging their duty and conscience in Preaching, and in their places, without the least colour or shadow of right or Lawfull authority, have instituted or deputed mean factious persons (unqualified with Vertue or Learning) to corrupt and poison the minds of Our good Subjects, with principles of Treason and Rebellion, and have seized the Rents and Revenues of Our Bishops, Deans and Chapters for their own use and benefite, or for the maintenance of the Army in Rebellion against us; and having thus shaken and dissolved the whole Government both of Church and State, have with cunning and subtilty kept both Houses of Parliament from concurring with Us, in providing such a Bill for the ease of tender Consciences as we have of late offered, and from being satisfied with such a Synod of Godly and learned Divines, regularly and orderly chosen according to the Lawes of the Kingdom, whereby all differences in the Church might be settled and composed; but instead thereof, these bloody distempers, and when so many Armies are on foot in severall parts of the Kingdom, a Bill hath been presented unto Us for the calling of an Assembly of such Divines as are mentioned in the said Bill, the same greater part whereof are men of no Reputation or Learning, and eminently disaffected to the government of the Church of England, and very many of them are Persons who have openly Preached Rebellion, and excited the People to take Armes against Vs, and so are not like to be proper instruments of Peace in Church or State; which Bill (having many clauses in it very derogatory to Our Honour and just Rights, and very scandalous to the true reformed Protestant Religion, or so much as any part being left to Vs, either in the choyce of the Persons, or in adjourning or dissolving the Assembly, or in directing so much as the manner of their proceedings, but all reserved wholly to the two Houses of Parliament or either of them, and the whole Bill being founded upon an unjust & heavy accusation of the present established Ecclesiasticall Government, & upon an intention expresse & declared to take away the same, neither of which we could by any means admit,) for many weighty reasons We forbore to passe, hoping by the blessing and mercy of God upon this poore distracted Nation, that when Peace and Security by a full and free convention of Vs, and Our two Houses of Parliament shall be again restored to King and People, that all Scruples and misunderstandings may be satisfied or removed, & the Church restored to the former Peace and Reverence, by a Regular and Orderly convention of fit and able men in a true and Lawfull Synod, but such is the impudence of these turbulent spirits, that they will not attend a just, Regular, and Lawfull view and survey of what is fit to be altered or amended, but aiming at nothing but an utter subversion of all Uniformity and Order, they have procured a pretended unprecedented Ordinance, bearing date the twelfth of this June, for the calling of an Assembly of Learned and Godly Divines (as they terme them) without Our Authority or Consent, who are thereby required to meet at Our City of Westminster on the first day of July next, and have wages allowed to them out of the Estates of Our good Subjects throughout the Kingdom, and with unheard of boldnesse are promised Dispensations in respect of their Attendance upon that Service, any Law or Statute of Non-Residence, or other Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding; amongst whom though there are some very Pious and Learned men named, yet 'tis well known (besides that they will forbear to be present at the meeting, by reason of the unlawfulness of the same) that in truth they have been driven from their Residences for Preaching Obedience, and would be quickly imprisoned if they could be apprehended, so that none dare appear and be present at the meeting, but such as are well known to be factious Promoters of the present distempers, and professed Enemies to the Peace of the Church and State. And whereas at or about the beginning of this present Parliament, We did by Our Writ call and assemble a Synod or Convocation of Our Clergy for the Province of Canterbury to be held at Westminster, which yet continues undetermined, and cannot by the Law be dissolved and determined but by Authority of Our Writ in like manner as it was called and assembled: And by the Lawes of this Kingdom, no Synod or Convocation of the Clergy ought to be called and assembled within this Realme, but by Authority of the Kings Writ; and no Constitutions or Ordinances Provinciall or Synodall, or any other Canons may be made, enacted, promulged, or executed waleffe with the Kings Royall Assent, and Licence first obtained, upon pain of every one of the Clergy doing contrary, and being thereof Convicted, to suffer Imprisonment, and make fine at the Kings Will, as by the Statute of the 25. yeare of King HENRY the eight, declaring and enacting the same, it doth clearly appear. We do therefore mightily inhibit and forbid all and every Person named in that pretended Ordinance to assemble and meet together, to the end and purpose therein set down; And We do Declare, That such an Assembly of Clergy-men to be gathered together without Our Writ and Lawfull Authority derived from Vs is illegal, and that no Acts to be done by them in that Assembly, ought to be received by any of Our good Subjects as binding them, or of any Authority with them: And We shall very strictly proceed against all such who notwithstanding this Our Gracious warning, shall assemble themselves together by colour of the said pretended Ordinance, and inflict such penalties upon them as are due by Law for such high Contempt, and Disobedience. And Our Pleasure and Command is, That this Our Proclamation be read and published in all the Churches and Chappels throughout Our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales. Given at Our Court at Oxford, this Twenty Second day of June, in the Nineteenth yeare of Our Reigne.

God Save the KING.